

At page 17, line 24, please delete "70 to 95" and insert -30 to 70--;

2 B
line 28, please delete "liquid carrier" and insert for the
overall decorative enhancement composition;

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 3-4, 6, 9-14, 18-19, and 21-38 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1 1. (Amended) A method for permanent decorative enhancement of a
2 polyethylene surface of a ~~[preformed]~~ molded polyethylene article which comprises:
3 (a) incorporating ~~[applying]~~ a decorative enhancement composition to
4 said polyethylene surface wherein said decorative enhancement
5 composition consists essentially of:
6 (1) a ~~[20 to 90 weight percent]~~ liquid carrier in an amount
7 sufficient to provide the decorative enhancement
8 composition with a consistency and viscosity necessary
9 for application by liquid methods of application; and
10 (2) a first ~~[40 to 80 weight percent]~~ mixture consisting essentially
11 of:
12 (A) a ~~[9 to 50 weight percent]~~ colorant in an amount
13 sufficient to impart a desired surface color; and
14 (B) ~~[50 to 91 weight percent of]~~ a second mixture consisting
15 essentially of:
16 (i) ~~[30 to 70 weight percent of]~~ a binder ~~[solid]~~ in an amount
- Sub C1

17 sufficient to provide adhesion of the decorative

18 enhancement composition to said polyethyl ne

19 surface ~~[selected from the group consisting of~~

20 ~~hydrocarbon resins, petroleum, synthetic and~~

21 ~~emulsifiable waxes, rosins, rosin esters, terpene~~

22 ~~based resins, and chlorinated polyolefin resins]; and~~

23 (ii) a ~~[70 to 30 weight percent]~~ particulate thermoplastic

24 powder in an amount sufficient to fuse into and

25 form a permanent bond with the molded

26 polyethylene article ~~[selected from the group~~

27 ~~consisting of polyethelene, polypropylene, and~~

28 ~~ethylene vinyl acetate co-polymers wherein said~~

29 ~~powder has a density from 0.88 to 0.97 and a particle~~

30 ~~size no greater than 140 microns diameter]; and~~

31 (b) heating said ~~[deposited]~~ decorative enhancement composition and

32 said ~~[interfacing surface]~~ molded polyethylene article to produce

33 a molded polyethylene article having ~~[to an elevated~~

34 ~~temperature and time sufficient to fuse said decorative~~

35 ~~enhancement composition to said surface to form a permanent]~~ a

36 permanently colored decoratively enhanced surface ~~[of the~~

37 ~~preformed article]~~ characterized by said colorant on and in said

38 polyethylene surface of said molded poly thylene article

3/1
a3/1
2. (Amended) The method of Claim [4] 39 wherein said liquid carrier
comprises 60 to 90 weight percent of said decorative enhancement composition for use
in applying said decorative enhancement composition by spray methods.

a4
5. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said colorant is an organic
pigment from the [groups] ~~group consisting of~~ phthalocyanines, carbazole dioxanines,
monoazo-based, diazo based, and quinacridones.

a4
a7
15. (Amended) The method of
Claim 1 further including application of a clear overcoat composition to ~~the~~ an exposed
surface of said permanent decoratively enhanced surface.

a5
17. (Amended) The method of Claim 16 further including the fusing of
said overcoat to said permanently colored decoratively enhanced surface the
application of a temperature greater than 250 degrees Fahrenheit without overheating
to cause warpage.

Please add the following new claims:

a6
39. The method of Claim 1 wherein said molded polyethylene article is a
preformed molded polyethylene article.

1 40. The method of Claim 39 wherein said incorporating step is
2 accomplished by applying said decorative enhancement composition to said preformed
3 molded polyethylene article.

1 41. The method of Claim 40 wherein said heating step is accomplished
2 by heating said decorative enhancement composition and said preformed molded
3 polyethylene article to a temperature and for a time sufficient to fuse said decorative
4 enhancement composition to said preformed molded polyethylene article.

1 42. The method of Claim 1 wherein said liquid carrier comprises 20 to 90
2 weight percent of said decorative enhancement composition.

1 43. The method of Claim 1 wherein said first mixture of said colorant, said
2 binder, and said particulate thermoplastic powder collectively comprise 10 to 80 weight
3 percent of said decorative enhancement composition.

1 44. The method of Claim 43 wherein said colorant comprises 9 to 50
2 weight percent of said first mixture and said binder and said particulate thermoplastic
3 powder collectively comprises 50 to 91 weight percent of said first mixture.

1 45. The method of Claim 44 wherein said binder comprises 30 to 70
2 weight percent of said second mixture and is selected from the group consisting of
3 hydrocarbon resins, petroleum, synthetic waxes, emulsifiable waxes, rosins, rosin-
4 esters, terpene based resins, and chlorinated polyolefin resins.

1 46. The method of Claim 44 wherein said particulate thermoplastic
2 powder comprises 70 to 30 weight percent of said second mixture and is selected from
3 the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, and ethylene-vinyl acetate co-
4 polymers wherein said powder has a density from 0.88 to 0.97 and a particle size no
5 greater than 140 microns diameter
